

Marine Recreational Information Program
Executive Steering Committee
Meeting Summary – June 7, 2007
Silver Spring, MD

Meeting Participants:

John Boreman – Director, NOAA Fisheries Office of Science & Technology; ESC Chair
Nancy Thompson - Director, NOAA Fisheries Northeast Science Center
Joshua DeMello, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (for Kitty Simonds)
William Most, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (for Vince O'Shea)
Larry Simpson – Executive Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
Bob Fletcher – Chair, Recreational Fisheries Subcommittee, MAFAC
Miguel Rolon – Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council
Gordon Colvin – Director, NYSDEC Bureau of Marine Resources
Tom Gleason – NOAA Fisheries, Office of Management & Budget; ESC Executive Secretariat
Rob Andrews – Interim Chair, Operations Team
Forbes Darby – Chair, Communications and Education Work Group

The Marine Recreational Information (MRI) Program Executive Steering Committee (ESC), chaired by Dr. John Boreman, Director of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Office of Science & Technology, met in Silver Spring, Maryland on June 7, 2007. The ESC addressed the following topics:

1. Opening Remarks/Updates – John Boreman

- The ESC approved the minutes from the May 24th ESC meeting.
- New hires by NOAA Fisheries Office of Science and Technology (S&T)
S&T has posted job announcements for the following positions:
 - Mathematical statistician
 - Survey statistician (2)
 - Data managerThese new hires will devote a significant portion of their time to supporting recreational fishing survey redesign work.

Gordon Colvin will begin work as the Chair of the State-Federal Registry Group on June 18, 2007; S&T will provide Gordon with an office in support of his duties.

- Summary of John Boreman's Presentations to the Gulf Council and MAFAC

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council - June 5, 2007, New Orleans, LA

- Bobbi Walker has agreed to serve on the Communications and Education Group (CEG)
- In response to CEG Chair Forbes Darby's May 31st letter to the Fishery Management Councils and Interstate Commissions, soliciting

nominees for MRI Program work groups, the Gulf Council went into closed session to discuss potential nominees.

- The Gulf Council recommended adding a Private Access Fishing work group to the MRI Program to specifically target the issue of potential bias in recreational fishing surveys due to the difficulty of conducting intercept surveys on those who fish from private access points.
- John Boreman informed the Gulf Council that no Gulf (or any other) state currently qualifies for an exemption from the Federal registry program requirement in Section 401(g) of the reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The primary hurdle is that existing state laws do not allow states to provide angler registration information to NOAA Fisheries.

Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) – June 6, 2007, Washington, D.C.

- MAFAC Member Rob Kramer requested a 1-pager of talking points on the work of the MRI Program for use by MAFAC members in communications and outreach efforts. The ESC tasked Forbes Darby with producing a 1-pager for MAFAC.
- MAFAC discussed State-Federal Registry issues at length with a focus on how states will provide information to NOAA Fisheries. Developing the means for maximizing use of existing state data will be critical to the success of implementing a State-Federal Registry and angler contact information is a particularly important data element.
- MAFAC recommended that the MRI Program develop a matrix summarizing existing state registries to facilitate the task of developing a State-Federal Registry. The ESC tasked Gordon Colvin with preparing a state registry matrix.

• Upcoming MRI Events

John Boreman will brief the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council on June 14, 2007 in Hampton, VA.

2. Kickoff Meeting for Fully Staffed MRI Program

At the last ESC meeting (5/24/07), Rob Andrews, Operations Team Interim Chair, proposed conducting a kickoff workshop for the MRI Program in July or August, 2007 to provide an overview of the status of recreational fishing survey redesign work, communicate the MRI Program's goals and objectives to the OT's work groups, and begin work on specific tasks assigned to the various work groups. The ESC agreed to sponsor the kickoff workshop.

In connection with his briefing to the Gulf Council, John Boreman asked if the Council would be willing to co-sponsor the kickoff meeting of the MRI Program. The Gulf Council expressed interest and is considering the request.

John Boreman reported that in the course of his briefing to MAFAC, some questioned the wisdom of waiting for a workshop to be organized in July or August to begin work on the many

tasks facing the MRI Program. The ESC discussed the timing issues raised at MAFAC, and agreed that work should not be put on hold pending the kickoff workshop. Rather, the OT, CEG and State-Federal Registry Group must continue filling out the membership of all MRI work groups in advance of the workshop. Further, the OT has identified numerous tasks that could be started immediately and the ESC approved moving forward on those projects so long as they are consistent with the OT's work plan approved at the May 24th ESC meeting.

The ESC and OT Chairs will continue to work with the Gulf Council to select a time and location for the kickoff workshop. They will keep the ESC informed of progress and bring the issue to the ESC for approval of the time and location.

3. Tasking for CEG and Registry Group

The ESC assigned the following tasks to the CEG:

- Prepare talking points on MRI Program activities for use by MAFAC members.
- Prepare an Op-Ed column, written in layman's terms, to inform the public regarding the MRI Program and its goals and objectives.
- As work progresses on survey redesign, be prepared to write a more detailed article on the Program and its achievements.

The ESC assigned the following tasks to the Registry Group:

- Flesh out membership and prepare a Development Plan for creation of a State-Federal Registry in compliance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act for review by the ESC at the kickoff workshop.
- Prepare a matrix that lays out the elements of all existing state angler registries.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ESC will take place in conjunction with the MRI Program kickoff workshop; date and location TBD.